Selected Questions from the Dictionary of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Islam

(Islam Section)

Question no. 19

What does Islam mean?

Answer:

Importance/1

Q- What does the religion of Islam mean?

A: In a general sense, Islam means submission and obedience to Allah alone inwardly and outwardly in a manner that complies with what He legislated through His Messengers by carrying out His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. This is the general meaning of Islam.

It is the religion of all the prophets, despite the variations in some of the revealed laws. It is all about submitting to Allah alone, for whoever submits to Him and to others besides Him is a polytheist, and whoever does not submit to Him is arrogant.

Allah Almighty says: إِنَّ ٱلدِّينَ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱلإِسلَٰمُ {The true religion with Allah is Islam.} [Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 19]

Allah Almighty also says: وَمَن يَبتَغِ غَيرَ ٱلإِسلَٰمِ دِينٗا فَلَن يُقبَلَ مِنهُ وَهُوَ فِي ٱلأٓخِرَةِ مِنَ ٱلخَٰسِرِينَ {Anyone who seeks a religion other than Islam, never will it be accepted from him; and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 85]

In an authentic Hadīth, Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"The prophets are step-brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one."

"Step-brothers": brothers who have the same father but different mothers. This means that the origin of the prophets' religion is the same, although their legislation is different.

In a specific sense, Islam refers to what came after the Prophet's mission. It refers specifically to what Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) was sent with, because what he was sent with has abrogated all the previous religions. So, whoever follows him is a Muslim, and whoever denies him is not a Muslim.Followers of the previous messengers were Muslims during the lifetime of their messengers, for example, the Jews were Muslims during the lifetime of Mūsa (Moses) (peace be upon him) and the Christians were Muslims during the lifetime of ‘Isa (Jesus) (peace be upon him).However, when they disbelieved in Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), they were no longer Muslims.

Allah Almighty legislated for every nation what suited its condition and time, and what guaranteed its welfare and ensured its benefits. Then, Allah Almighty abrogated whatever He wished of such legislations for they were no longer valid. This was the case until Allah Almighty sent His Prophet Muhammad, the seal of all prophets, to all the people on earth and throughout time until the Day of Judgment.Allah Almighty sent him with a comprehensive Shariah that is fit for all times and places. It is not to be replaced or abrogated. Thus, all the people on earth have no choice but to follow him and believe

in him. Allah Almighty says: ﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا﴾ {Say [O Prophet], “O people, I am the Messenger of Allah to you all.}[Surat al-A‘rāf: 158]

Allah Almighty also says: ﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ﴾ {We have not sent you [O Prophet] except as a mercy to the worlds.}[Surat al-Anbiyā’: 107]

Allah has sealed the religions with Islam and has completed His favor therewith.

He has made Islam a complete and comprehensive religion covering all aspects of life. It includes maintaining and fulfilling Allah's rights, people's rights, and the rights of all other creatures around us. It makes it obligatory upon the Muslim to give everyone his due right.

Allah Almighty says: ﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ﴾ {Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen Islam as your religion.}[Surat al-Mā’idah: 3]

Islam is a religion that is consistent with science, reason, and natural disposition. It does not contradict the sound results of applied and empirical sciences in all fields.

Embracing Islam requires uttering the two testimonies of faith: "Ash-hadu alla ilāha illallāh wa ash-hadu anna Muahmmadan rasūlullāh" (I testify that there is no god but Allah and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah), along with being aware of its meaning, having the firm belief in it, and acting upon it.Furthermore, Imān (faith) requires belief in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and predestination. It also requires the slave to worship his Lord in accordance with His legislation and, thus, offer Salah (prayer), give Zakah, fast the month of Ramadān, and perform Hajj to the House if he can find a way thereto,besides submitting to Allah in all his affairs by obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions.May Allah’s peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.Unified Serial Number: 220

Question no. 29

Does Islam support the concept of classism?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be to Allah, classism means dividing people into different classes depending on their property, race, and position in such a way that no one can change the class he belongs to. Islam considers classism among the remnants of the pre-Islamic era of ignorance.Islam prohibits the existence of classism among Muslims because Allah has created people from a male and a female so that they may recognize one another and not oppress one another. Allah Almighty says:{ يَاأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ} {O people, We have created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may recognize one another. Indeed, the most noble of you before Allah is the most righteous among you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.}[Surat al-Hujurāt: 13]The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) clarified that lineage itself does not place someone forward; rather, what places him forward are his acts and the good things he does for people. He (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Whoever is slowed down by his actions will not be hastened forward by his lineage."[Sahīh Muslim (38)]

As for the difference among people based on wealth, status, and other factors, they are not to be praised or dispraised by their own virtue; rather, they are to be praised in case man utilizes the prestige, authority, and wealth that Allah has bestowed upon him in obeying Allah and serving people. On the other hand, they are to be dispraised in case

man uses them to disobey his Lord, look down upon people, and oppress them. Apart from this, the difference among people in terms of worldly pleasures represents a universal rule that Allah has intended to populate the earth. Allah Almighty says:{ أَهُمْ يَقْسِمُونَ رَحْمَتَ رَبِّكَ نَحْنُ قَسَمْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ مَعِيشَتَهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَرَفَعْنَا بَعْضَهُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا سُخْرِيًّا وَرَحْمَتُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ (32) {Is it they who distribute the mercy of your Lord? It is We Who have distributed their livelihood among them in the life of this world and have raised some of them above others in ranks, so that they may serve one another. But the mercy of your Lord is better than what they accumulate. وَلَوْلَا أَنْ يَكُونَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً لَجَعَلْنَا لِمَنْ يَكْفُرُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ لِبُيُوتِهِمْ سُقُفًا مِنْ فِضَّةٍ وَمَعَارِجَ عَلَيْهَا يَظْهَرُونَ (33) Were it not that all people might become a single community [of disbelievers], We would have given those who disbelieve in the Most Compassionate One houses of sliver roofs and staircases to ascend,(34) وَلِبُيُوتِهِمْ أَبْوَابًا وَسُرُرًا عَلَيْهَا يَتَّكِئُونَ and their houses having [silver] doors and couches on which they recline,) وَزُخْرُفًا وَإِنْ كُلُّ ذَلِكَ لَمَّا مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةُ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ (35} and [golden] ornaments. But all of these are mere enjoyments of the life of this world, and the Hereafter with your Lord is [only] for those who fear Allah.}[Surat az-Zukhruf: 32-35]Allah Almighty clarified that such differences in terms of worldly pleasures are part of His planning. Shaykh ‘Abdur-Rahmān as-Sa‘di (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:"Allah Almighty is telling us that this worldly life is worthless with Him, and if it had not been for His kindness and mercy towards His slaves, which He puts first before everything else, He would have provided the disbelievers profusely with worldly pleasures and He would have given them {houses of sliver roofs and staircases}, i.e., staircases made of silver, {to ascend} their roofs. In other words, He would have adorned their worldly life for them in various ways and would have fulfilled all their desires. However, He did not do this out of being merciful towards His slaves fearing that they would hasten to disbelief and to committing sins persistently because of their love for this worldly life. This is proof that Allah Almighty generally or specifically prevents His slaves from some worldly pleasures for their own benefit. This is because life is not worth a mosquito's wing to Allah since all such things cause annoyance, troubles, and are perishable worldly pleasures. And this is since the Hereafter is better with Allah Almighty for those who fear their Lord by obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. The bliss of the Hereafter is complete and perfect from all aspects, and in Paradise, there will be whatever the souls desire and the eyes delight in, and they will abide therein forever. What an enormous difference between the two abodes!"Tafsīr As-Sa‘di, Taysīr Al-Karīm Ar-Rahmān (p. 765).

So, Islam does not seek to abolish the division of people into rich and poor by making all of them rich or poor for instance; however, it has made it the duty of the rich to help the poor. As for fighting the usual and normal differences between people and trying to obliterate them, it is an act that contradicts the universal rules, and this is why Islam presents the right way of dealing with such differences.May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 2470

Question no. 30

What is the concept of moderation in Islam?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be Allah, moderation in Islam means being in the middle between two extremes: excessiveness and negligence.It adopts a moderate course between Jewish excessiveness and rudeness with Allah when the Jews said: Allah is poor and we are rich, and with the prophets, as they denied some and murdered others; and between the Christians' negligence who deified Jesus Christ and took their rabbis and monks as lords besides Allah.

Moderation in Islam is general and comprehensive. When it comes to rights, it means giving everyone his due right even if he belongs to someone of a different religion or is an enemy. Allah Almighty says:{ يَاأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَآنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَى أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَى وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ (8) {O you who believe, stand firm for Allah by bearing true testimony, and do not let the hatred of a people lead you away from justice. Be just; that is closer to righteousness. And fear Allah, for Allah is All-Aware of what you do.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 8]Unlike the Jews who say: We are under no obligation towards the non-Jews, and unlike the Christians who say: If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to him the other cheek, although most of them do not apply this; rather, they are the ones who slap people and plunder their possessions.

Moreover, moderation means fairness and justice. In all aspects, Islam is a good thing in the middle between two evil things. The Muslim is required to be moderate, i.e., he must avoid excessiveness and exaggeration and must also avoid slackness and negligence. He should apply moderation to himself and to whatever tasks and rights he oversees and must apply moderation generally to his words and deeds.Some of these aspects are: Firstly: Islam considers the soul's needs and thus prescribes acts of worship, the pursuit of spiritual purity, and the like. It also considers physical needs, regulates dealings with people, prescribes the way of eating and drinking, encourages marriage, and forbids celibacy, i.e., abstaining from marriage and being fully devoted to worship.Some people showed an excessive interest in the soul and neglected the body although it is the means of performing the acts of worship. Consequently, they abstained from bathing and washing up and forced themselves to wear ragged clothes and eat food that did not suit them along with exaggerating in worship, isolating themselves from people, and contradicting human nature. Examples of such people include Christian monks, some Buddhists and Hindus, and the extremists from the Sufis.On the other hand, some people showed an excessive interest in the body and neglected the soul. They lived only to satisfy their lusts and fulfill their desires without observing the Shariah or paying attention to worship.

Secondly: Islam permits dealing with disbelievers through selling, buying, gifting, etc. It makes it obligatory for Muslims to deal with them fairly and prohibits harming them other than in Jihad. However, Muslims are required not to be influenced by the disbelievers' beliefs and traditions and are forbidden from loving them.Some people kill whoever belongs to a different religion and cannot stand their existence. They oppress them only because they do not adopt their religion, way, or doctrine. On the contrary, some people give up their religion for the disbelievers' sake and obey them in disobeying Allah seeking to flatter and impress them, not knowing that by this they can only win their contempt and, so, they lose their religion as well as their worldly life.

Thirdly: Islam calls people to have faith in Allah Almighty and in His attributes and actions without likening Him to His creation. Some people, however, are atheists and verbally negate the existence of Allah Almighty, although their hearts contradict their words.Others believe in Allah as non-existent. Thus, they affirm no attribute or action for Him. These people and their likes share the act of Ta'tīl (negation).On the contrary, some people believe that everything is Allah. Some even deify creatures, like the angels and Jesus, or deify what is even more inferior like the idols and the trees, giving some of them names derived from the names of Allah Almighty. These people and their likes share the act of Tamthīl (likening).

Fourthly: Islam has established predestination and the fact that everything in this universe happens in compliance with Allah's will, and that He likes and is pleased with whatever occurs in obedience to His commands. It has also established the fact that man has free will and his voluntary acts fall within the boundaries of Allah's will.Some people say that man has no free will and is under compulsion, whereas other people say that man creates his own actions apart from Allah's will.

Fifthly: Islam adopts a moderate course in the economy between socialism and capitalism.

Sixthly: Islam has fulfilled justice and moderation in all aspects including the relation with Allah Almighty, the relation with people, and the relation with oneself.You may find some of these aspects fulfilled in a different religion other than Islam, but this is not a common case because Islam is the religion of Allah Almighty. He has chosen for His slaves and with which He has sealed the religions. Allah has made Islam a religion that fits all times, places, and people. He has made it beyond people's mental capacity to encompass its magnificence, and it is the only religion that He accepts. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 2140

Question no. 31

What are the forms of tolerance in Islam?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be to Allah, tolerance in Islam is the most superior form of tolerance that mankind has ever known. Its synonym in Shariah is the principle of ease, which is clear in many fields including the following:

Allah Almighty has facilitated the acts of worship in the Islamic Shariah; thus, it is by no means a legislation full of burdens and shackles like the previous legislations. Allah Almighty says:{ الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَاةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ} {Those who follow the Messenger – the unlettered Prophet – whose description they find in their Torah and the Gospel. He enjoins them to do what is good and forbids them from what is evil; he makes lawful for them what is pure and makes unlawful for them what is impure; he relieves them of their burden and the shackles that were on them.}[Surat al-A‘rāf: 157]In the previously revealed laws, for instance, one could not pray except in the place of worship, whereas in the religion of Islam, it is permissible for the Muslim to pray anywhere once the prayer becomes due, be it in the air, in the sea, or on the land.Moreover, in the previous legislations water was the only means of removing ritual impurity; however, in Islam Allah Almighty has prescribed Tayammum (dry ablution), which is a sign of His mercy. The same applies to Qasr (shortening the prayer) and breaking the fast for the traveler and the sick person.

Another manifestation of facilitation and tolerance in Islam is the fact that Allah has prescribed repentance for the sinner, whereas the repentance prescribed for the Children of Israel was to kill each other to have their repentance accepted. Allah Almighty says:{ وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَى لِقَوْمِهِ يَاقَوْمِ إِنَّكُمْ ظَلَمْتُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ بِاتِّخَاذِكُمُ الْعِجْلَ فَتُوبُوا إِلَى بَارِئِكُمْ فَاقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ عِنْدَ بَارِئِكُمْ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ} {And [remember] when Moses said to his people, “O my people, you have wronged yourselves by taking the calf [for worship]. So, repent to your Creator and kill yourselves [the guilty among you]; that is best for you with your Creator.” Then He accepted your repentance, for He is the Accepter of Repentance, the Most Merciful.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 54]In Islam, however, the case is different; when one repents, Allah accepts his repentance and replaces his evil deeds with good ones. Allah Almighty says:{ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا (68) يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَخْلُدْ فِيهِ مُهَانًا (69) إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا (70) {And those who do not invoke besides Allah another god, and who do not kill a soul whom Allah has forbidden, except in the course of justice, and who do not commit adultery, for whoever does any of this will face the penalty, the punishment will be doubled for him on the Day of Resurrection, wherein he will remain disgraced forever, except those who repent and

believe, and do righteous deeds; for them, Allah will change their evil deeds into good deeds, for Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.(71) {وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَتَابًا Whoever repents and does righteous deeds has turned to Allah with sincere repentance.} [Surat al-Furqān: 68-71]Another form of facilitation is clear in the following statement of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him):"Whoever does good in Islam will not be punished for what he did in Jāhiliyyah (the pre-Islamic era of ignorance) and whoever does evil after embracing Islam will be punished for his former and later (bad deeds)."[Narrated by Al-Bukhāri (6921) and Muslim (120)]"Doing evil" in the Hadīth refers to apostasy and not to the repetition of sin. So, if one renounces Islam, he will be punished for his former and later deeds, but if one returns to sin without renouncing Islam, he will be punished for the sins he committed after embracing Islam and not for the ones he committed before that, as the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Are you not aware that Islam wipes out all (sins) that preceded it?"[Narrated by Muslim (121)]

Another form of facilitation is the fact that Islam is a religion based on the principle of ease and is free from shackles and burdens. Hence, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"Indeed, religion [Islam] is easy. No one overburdens himself in the religion except that he will be overwhelmed by it. So, be moderate in your religion; if you can't reach perfection, try to be close to it and receive the glad tidings that you will be rewarded. Take advantage of the morning, evening, and part of the night (to worship Allah)."[Sahīh Al-Bukhāri (39)]Also when the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) sent Mu‘ādh and Abu Mūsa al-Ash‘ari (may Allah be pleased with both of them) to Yemen, he said to them:"Make things easy for people, not difficult; give them glad tidings and do not make them averse and cooperate with one another and do not oppose one another."[Sahīh Al-Bukhāri (3038) and Sahīh Muslim (7)]

Among the forms of ease and tolerance in Islam is urging one to be dutiful to your parents, even if they are disbelievers and trying to turn you away from Islam. Allah Almighty says:{ وَإِنْ جَاهَدَاكَ عَلَى أَنْ تُشْرِكَ بِي مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعْهُمَا وَصَاحِبْهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعْرُوفًا وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَيَّ ثُمَّ إِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَأُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ (15) {But if they strive to make you associate partners with Me of what you have no knowledge, then do not obey them. Yet keep company with them in this world with kindness and follow the way of those who turn to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me is your return, and I will inform you of what you used to do.}[Surat Luqmān: 15]When the mother of Asmā’ bint Abi Bakr came to visit her, she sought the Prophet's permission to maintain good relations with her, saying: "My mother, who was a polytheist, came to visit me accompanied by her father during the period of the peace treaty between the Quraysh and the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him). I sought the Prophet's verdict, saying: 'O Messenger of Allah, my mother came to visit me willingly, should I maintain a good relation with her?' He said: 'Yes, maintain a good relation with her.'"[Sahīh Al-Bukhāri (3183) and Sahīh Muslim (50)]Islam has also urged the Muslim husband to treat his Jewish or Christian wife kindly and not to upset, rebuke, or despise her because of her religion.

Another manifestation of the tolerance of Islam and its ease is that it urges Muslims to kindly treat non-Muslims who do not fight against them on account of their religion. Islam makes it obligatory for the Muslim to be fair with them and to be kind to them. Allah Almighty says:{ لَا يَنْهَاكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُمْ مِنْ دِيَارِكُمْ أَنْ تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ (8) { Allah does not forbid you from being kind and just to those who did not fight against you, nor did they drive you out of your homes. Indeed, Allah loves those who are just.}[Surat al-Mumtahanah: 8]

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 3180

Question no. 32

What are the human rights in Islam?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be to Allah; Islam maintains the Creator's right as well as the creature's right. Mu'adh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) said:"I was riding behind the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) with nothing separating us but the back of the mount. He said: 'O Muʻādh ibn Jabal.' I replied: 'Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' Then, after proceeding for an hour, he said: 'O Muʻādh ibn Jabal.' I replied: 'Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' Then, after proceeding for an hour, he said: 'O Muʻādh ibn Jabal.' I replied: 'Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' He, then, said: 'Do you know Allah's right on the slaves?' I replied: 'Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said: 'Allah's right on the slaves is to worship Him and associate nothing with Him.' Then, he proceeded for an hour and said: 'O Muʻādh ibn Jabal.' I replied: "Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah.' He said: 'Do you know the slaves' right on Allah if they do this?' I replied: 'Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said: 'That He will not punish them.'"[Agreed upon, Sahīh Al-Bukhāri (6267) and Sahīh Muslim (48)]

Islam came to protect man's religion and his worldly interests. Because Islam is a comprehensive religion, it has not overlooked man's rights in some respects, as in man-made laws. Some of these aspects are:

Firstly: Man's right in religion: Islam calls people to the true religion and clarifies the falsity of other religions without compelling anyone to embrace Islam. It considers religion the most important necessity. Therefore, protecting it is given precedence over everything else. It also grants the non-Muslim who lives in a Muslim country the right of keeping his religion according to the conditions stipulated by Islam.

Secondly, Man's right in life: Islam protects all inviolable souls by forbidding the act of killing them, even in the case of war. Islam forbids killing children, women, and old men who do not participate in war.

Thirdly: The right of having offspring and progeny: Islam protects man's right in having progeny and forbids being prevented from this right, or making it difficult for him to achieve it.

Fourthly: Man's social rights: Islam protects the parents' and relatives' rights through kind treatment, providing for them when needed, and maintaining good relations with them. It protects the neighbors' rights through kind treatment and abstaining from harming them. It protects the right of passage by guiding the lost, moving harm from the way, lowering the gaze, avoiding annoyance, etc. People in general also have preserved rights that are known in Islam.

Fifthly: Man's economic rights: Islam protects the individual's right of ownership, forbids usury, and lightly warns against taking debts but permits them if needed. It makes it obligatory to help the needy by giving them Zakah and encourages the act of giving them charity. It permits the one who has an urgent need to ask people for money until his need is fulfilled. It also regulates the country's public resources and funds.

Sixthly: Man's health-related rights: There are so many legislations in Islam related to health that all aim at protecting the individual and public health.Examples include forbidding whatever harms man's health or negatively affects the health of the community around him, like forbidding drugs and intoxicants,and forbidding adultery and homosexuality because of the diseases they cause. Islam is also concerned about taking precautions against the spread of diseases.Hence, when a plague strikes a certain country, Islam forbids leaving this country or entering it, since entering it will make man

prone to disease or death and leaving it will lead to transmitting and spreading disease among healthy people.

Seventhly: Women's rights: Islam protects the mother's rights by making it obligatory to look after her, to be dutiful to her, and to make her happy as much as possible. Islam also protects the woman's rights as a sister, a wife, and a daughter by taking care of her, protecting her, making her feel comfortable, and traveling with her since travel most likely contains hardship, and for other reasons as well.Islam obliges the woman's guardian to provide for her since she is commanded to stay in her home unless it is necessary to go out. She can handle whatever money she possesses, her inheritance, etc.Moreover, a woman has the right to choose her husband, the right to the custody and care of her children, etc.The main difference between Islam and others here is that the individual's observance of such rights emanates from his belief and desire for reward from Allah Almighty and not out of fear of the law or the like.The excellent features of Islam become quite obvious when compared to man's state in general and woman's state in particular prior to Islam and in contemporary systems.

Eighthly: Islam protects the Jinn's rights as well as the animals' rights as these are known in the books of Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence). So, if Islam protects the rights of the Jinn and animals, how could it be imagined that it neglects the rights of the creature whom Allah has honored, namely man?! Allah Almighty says:{ وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا (70) {We have honored the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, provided for them good things and favored them above many of those whom We have created.}[Surat al-Isrā': 70]This honor, in Islam, includes all mankind, believers and disbelievers, white and black, Arabs and non-Arabs. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 3120

Question no. 35

Was Islam spread by the sword? If so, how could it be said that it is a religion that calls for peace?

Answer:

Importance/1

Q- Was Islam spread by the sword?

A: Islam was spread, in principle, by calling people to Allah Almighty and it was supported by the sword against those who blocked the way before the Islamic Da'wah (call) or fought against it. The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) kept conveying the message of Islam in Makkah for thirteen years. Then, Madīnah was opened through Da'wah (inviting people to Islam) before Muslims were commanded to fight.The Companions and the Muslims, in general, went about in the land calling people to Allah, but fought those who rejected their call or fought against them. Islam did not force anyone to embrace it, as Allah Almighty says:{لا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ}، {There is no compulsion in religion.}Jizyah was prescribed for those who do not want to embrace Islam. It is a small amount of money paid in return for protecting them and the like.Islam, the upright religion, has protected the Dhimmis (non-Muslim subjects living in a Muslim country) allowing the Jews and the Christians to live under its shade after being accustomed to persecuting and killing each other. So, it spread tranquility, harmony, and peace among them.Out of His mercy towards His slaves, Allah Almighty prescribed Jihad to convey the message of Islam and help it become dominant, thus saving many people, and granting them happiness in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah is the One Who grants success, and may His peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.

Unified Serial Number: 20

Question no. 37

What is the stance of Islam on terrorism?

Answer:

Importance/1

Q- What is the stance of Islam on "terrorism"?

Terrorism means practicing various types of physical or spiritual aggression, intimidation, or threatening unjustly by countries, groups, or individuals against man regarding his religion, his life, his honor, his mind, or his property, and it is one of the forms of spreading corruption in the land.

Allah Almighty says: {وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ} {And do not seek to spread corruption in the land, for Allah does not like those who spread corruption.}[Surat al-Qasas: 77]

Allah Almighty has imposed severe punishments upon those who spread corruption in the land to stop their evil and protect people's properties, lives, and honor. Allah Almighty says: (إِنَّمَا جَزَاءُ الَّذِينَ يُحَارِبُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا أَنْ يُقَتَّلُوا أَوْ يُصَلَّبُوا أَوْ تُقَطَّعَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُمْ مِنْ خِلَافٍ أَوْ يُنْفَوْا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ ذَلِكَ لَهُمْ خِزْيٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ (33) {The penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and spread corruption in the land, is that they should be executed, or crucified, or their hands and feet amputated on opposite sides, or banished from the land. This is a disgrace for them in this world, and for them in the Hereafter, there will be a great punishment.}[Surat al-Mā’idah: 33]

It is important to mention here that the disbelievers have been fighting Islam and have been accusing it of the worst things since ancient times only to cause aversion toward it. {يُرِيدُونَ أَن يُطْفِـُٔوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَٰهِهِمْ وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّآ أَن يُتِمَّ نُورَهُۥ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ ٱلْكَٰفِرُونَ} {They seek to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah refuses except to perfect His light, even if the disbelievers hate it.}[Surat at-Tawbah: 32]Such accusations include their description of Islam as the religion of terrorism and brutality. They seem to forget that terrorism, brutality, killing people, and dominating them unjustly, besides all other dispraised qualities, are found in the religion of disbelief and are among the disbelievers' attributes throughout old and modern history.

The fact that some of the so-called Muslims act in a wrong way, either out of ignorance or out of ill intention, does not mean that such acts belong to Islam because Islam itself prohibits them, and Allah is the One Who grants success and may His peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.Unified Serial Number: 3040

Question no. 42

All religions are claimed to be from Allah, so why should one choose to follow Islam alone?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be to Allah! The following criteria distinguish the true religion:

Firstly: Not all religions are claimed to be from Allah Almighty; rather, some religions are terrestrial like Buddhism and Hinduism. Their founders do not claim to bring such

religions from Allah; rather, these religions call to glorifying some human beings and to taking them as gods, or they call to worshiping some tangible objects like the sun, the moon, or some planets and to glorifying some creatures like trees, mountains, animals, and rivers. Such religions represent pagan doctrines.

Secondly: The true religion is the one that came from Allah, was legislated by Allah for His slaves, and was conveyed by His messengers to people. The previous messages like Judaism and Christianity were authentic divine messages that were later distorted and changed and that were abrogated by the advent of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), the Messenger of Islam.Before their distortion, these messages commanded that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) must be followed when he appeared. In fact, there are still some texts therein that give glad tidings of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and call its followers to embrace Islam.This is why those who lived during the Prophet's time from among the Jews were anticipating and waiting for his appearance to follow him, and whenever a conflict occurred between them and the Arab polytheists, they would use him to threaten them. Salamah ibn Salmah ibn Waqsh (may Allah be pleased with him), who participated in the Battle of Badr, said:"We had a Jewish neighbor who lived among the clan of Banu ‘Abd al-Ash-hal. Just prior to the beginning of the Prophet's mission, he left his house and came out to us and sat in the gathering of A‘bd al-Ash-hal. At that time, I was the youngest among that gathering, and upon me was a robe within which I was lying down. He (his Jewish neighbor) mentioned resurrection, the Day of Judgment, the Reckoning, the Scale, Paradise, and Hellfire. He was speaking to people who were polytheists and idol-worshippers, people who did not believe in resurrection after death. They said to him: 'Woe upon you, O so-and-so. You really believe that people will be resurrected after death to an abode that contains in it a Garden and a Fire and that they will be rewarded for their deeds?' He said: 'Yes, by Whose name oaths are taken, I believe this.' He then said that, in the place of having his share of that Fire (in the Hereafter), he wished to enter the greatest oven on earth after it is first heated, and it is then closed upon him. That is how badly he wanted to be saved from that Fire tomorrow (i.e., in the Hereafter). They said to him: 'Woe unto you, and what is the sign of that happening?' He said: 'A prophet will be sent in the direction of these lands,' and he pointed towards Makkah and Yemen. They asked: 'And when will we see him?' The Jewish man looked at me – as I was one of the youngest people among them – and said: 'When this boy exhausts his years (i.e. reaches old age), he will be around when the prophet is sent.' By Allah, the days and nights did not depart [for me (i.e., I did not die)] until Allah sent His Messenger (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), who was alive among us. We believed in him, but he (that very same Jewish man) disbelieved in him out of jealousy and as a form of transgression. We said to him: 'Woe upon you, O so-and- so. Were you not the one who said about him what you said?' He said: 'Yes, but that is not him.'"[Narrated by Ahmad (15841) with a good Isnād]However, when Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) came and the Jews realized that he was not from among them, they denied him out of jealousy; otherwise, they knew quite well that he was a prophet sent by Allah.

Thirdly: What makes it obligatory for man to adopt this great religion is the fact that it is Allah's religion, whereas all other religions are from the devil, besides the fact that Islam is the truth and everything else is false. Allah Almighty says:{ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ الْبَاطِلُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ (30) {That is because Allah is the Truth, and what they supplicate to other than Him is false, and it is Allah Who is the Most High, the All-Great.}[Surat Luqmān: 30]

Fourthly: The true religion, which is Islam, provides man with immediate and future benefits. As for the immediate benefits, he attains tranquility and a good life, as Allah Almighty says:{ مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَى وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهُ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ (97) {Whoever does righteous deeds, male or female, while being a believer, We will surely grant him a good life, and We will surely reward them according to the best of their deeds.}[Surat an-Nahl: 97]Allah Almighty also says:{ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ

(28) بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ} {Those who believe and whose hearts find tranquility in the remembrance of Allah, for indeed in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find tranquility.}[Surat ar-Ra‘d: 28] On the other hand, achieving eternal success and salvation from Hellfire, besides winning Allah's pleasure, represent the future benefits provided by the true religion. Allah Almighty says:{كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَمَنْ زُحْزِحَ عَنِ النَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ الْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ (185) {Every soul will taste death, and you will be paid your reward in full on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever is spared from the Fire and admitted into Paradise has truly won, for the life of this world is nothing but an illusory pleasure.}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 185]Allah Almighty also says:{ قُلْ أَؤُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِنْ ذَلِكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ (15) {Say, “Shall I inform you of what is better than these? For those who fear Allah are gardens with their Lord under which rivers flow, abiding therein forever, with pure spouses and pleasure from Allah. And Allah is All-Seeing of His slaves.”}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 15]

Fifthly: The true religion, which is Islam, provides man with a criterion to distinguish between truth and falsehood, guidance and misguidance, and good and evil. Allah Almighty says:{ يَاأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنْ تَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ فُرْقَانًا وَيُكَفِّرْ عَنْكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ (29) } {O you who believe, if you fear Allah, He will provide you with an insight to distinguish between right and wrong, absolve you of your sins and forgive you, for Allah is the Lord of great bounty.}[Surat al-Anfāl: 29]

Therefore, every human being, male or female, must embrace Islam because all other religions are either the previous divine messages that were distorted and changed and were, then, abrogated by Islam, or they are totally false religions devoid of goodness. Moreover, adopting them in worship is nothing but a loss in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah Almighty says:{) وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ (85} {Anyone who seeks a religion other than Islam, never will it be accepted from him; and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.}[Surat Āl ‘Imrān: 85]May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 1510

Question no. 46

What is the stance of Islam on the concept of free will versus the concept of compulsion/coercion?

Answer:

Importance/1

Praise be to Allah, Allah Almighty wrote down the destinies of everything before creating the heavens and the earth. He sent the Messengers, revealed the Books, and created the slaves with a natural disposition to goodness and a natural aversion to evil. He guided mankind to the recognition of good and evil and granted them the ability to distinguish between both. Allah Almighty says:﴿ وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ (10) ﴾ {And shown him the two ways [of right and wrong]?}[Surat al-Balad: 10]Allah Almighty also says:﴿ إِنَّا هَدَيْنَاهُ السَّبِيلَ إِمَّا شَاكِرًا وَإِمَّا كَفُورًا (3) ﴾ {Indeed, We showed him the way, whether he is grateful or ungrateful.}[Surat al-Insān: 3]When the Pharaoh asked Mūsa (Moses) (peace be upon him): "So who is the Lord of you two?" Moses replied, as stated by Allah Almighty, saying: {He said, “Our Lord is the One Who gave everything its form then guided it.”}[Surat Taha: 50]Allah Almighty has guided every single human being He created to what is good for him, which is something that everyone normally feels. Allah has even guided each animal to what is good for it, what preserves its kind, and what guarantees the continuity of its reproduction and multiplication.

Allah Almighty has established irrefutable proof upon His creatures and has made the way to salvation easy for the blessed ones and the way to perdition easy for the wretched ones. Allah Almighty says: {Surely your efforts are divergent.(4) وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا (5) وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا As for the one who gives in charity and fears Allah, وَمَا (6) وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَاهَا and truly believes in the best reward,(7) وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا We will make it easy for him the way of salvation.(8) فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا But as for the one who is miserly and deems himself self-sufficient,(9) قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكَّاهَا and denies the best reward, وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ (10) دَسَّاهَا We will make easy for him the way of perdition.}[Surat al-Layl: 4-10]

One of the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) once asked the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) about one's stance on predestination, and whether one should rely on it and quit working or should work. The answer to this question lies in this Hadīth that was reported by ‘Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:"We were attending a funeral at Baqī’ al-Gharqad (Muslim cemetery in Madīnah). The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) came to us and sat down, and we sat down around him. He had a small stick in his hand. He lowered his head and started scraping the ground with his stick, then said: 'There is none among you, there is no living soul, except that his seat in Paradise or in Hell is decreed and whether he will be doomed or blessed.' A man said: 'O Messenger of Allah, should we depend on what has been decreed for us and leave the deeds?' He said: 'Whoever is blessed will do the deeds of the blessed ones and whoever is wretched will do the deeds of the wretched ones.' He said: 'Exert the effort, for everyone will find it easy to do such deeds that will lead him to what he was created for. The blessed ones will find it easy to do the deeds of the blessed, whereas the wretched ones will find it easy to do the deeds of the wretched.' Then, he recited: {As for the one who gives in charity and fears Allah, and truly believes in the best reward, We will make easy for him the way of salvation. But as for the one who is miserly and deems himself self-sufficient, and denies the best reward, We will make easy for him the way of perdition.}"[Sahīh Muslim (2647)]

Allah Almighty is in no need of coercing anyone because acts of obedience bring Him no benefit and sins cannot harm Him. Allah has created mankind, has granted them a natural disposition, and has made things easy for them, so He is in no need of coercion.

Allah Almighty knew how people would act before even creating them. He wrote that down in the Preserved tablet and nothing happens except by His will.Whatever happens falls within Allah's creation, His will, and His planning, and His perfect wisdom definitely stands behind it. Man has free will that is subject to Allah's will. Allah Almighty says:{ وَمَا تَشَاءُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ يَشَاءَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ (29) }{But you cannot wish except by the Will of Allah, the Lord of the worlds.}[Surat at-Takwīr: 29]Man is also held accountable for his choices and intentional deeds.

Everyone knows the difference between what he does voluntarily and what happens to him involuntarily, like getting sick or falling down. One chooses what he wants and voluntarily abandons what he does not want.

Therefore, man acts according to his own free will and choice and will be held responsible and accountable for it on the Day of Judgment. However, he will not be blamed for whatever occurs to him against his own will, like falling sick or being unable to carry out a duty. May Allah's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad.

Unified Serial Number: 1360

Importance/1

Q- What are the excellent features of Islam, or why do I adopt Islam and not another religion?

A: The excellent features of Islam include its fundamentals as well as its subsidiary rules. Allah Almighty says: {وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ دِينًا مِمَّنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ

religion than one who submits himself entirely to Allah, and does good?}[Surat an-Nisā': 125]

- One of the excellent features of Islam is that it has freed man from the slavery of slaves to the slavery of the Lord of the slaves. So, the Muslim worships Allah Almighty alone. He does not prostrate or bow to anyone except Allah, and he fears none and has hope in none but Allah, as Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَإِلَٰهُكُمْ إِلَٰهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۖ لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾ {And your god is one God. None has the right to be worshiped except Him – the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 163]

- Another excellent feature of Islam is that it has placed all people on an equal footing. So, there is neither superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a white person over a black except in terms of piety. Islam has also invalidated the pre-Islamic standards that people take pride in, like prestige, money, position, and authority. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُم مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴾ {O people, We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may recognize one another. Indeed, the most noble of you before Allah is the most righteous among you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.}[Surat al-Hujurāt: 13]In an authentic Hadīth, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:"O people, verily Allah has removed the arrogance of Jāhiliyyah (pre-Islamic period of ignorance) from you and their boastfulness about their forefathers. So, now there are two types of people: a righteous believer or a wicked and miserable person. People are the children of Adam, and Allah created Adam from dust. Let the people cease to boast about their ancestors or they will certainly be more inferior in the sight of Allah than the beetle which rolls dung with its nose."

- Another excellent feature of Islam is that it commands people to believe in Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ﴾ {The true believers are those who believe in Allah and His Messenger.}[Surat an-Nūr: 62]It also commands people to adopt Tawhīd (monotheism). Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ ﴾ {Although they were commanded only to worship Allah with sincere devotion to Him, being inclined to true faith.}[Surat al-Bayyinah: 5]Moreover, it commands people to observe prayer and give Zakah. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ ﴾ {Establish prayer and give Zakah.}[Surat an-Nūr: 56]It also commands people to fulfill trusts and pledges. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ ﴾ {And those who are faithful to their trusts and pledges.}[Surat al-Mu'minūn: 8]Furthermore, Islam commands people to fulfill the covenants. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ ﴾ {O you who believe, fulfill your covenants.}[Surat al-Mā'idah: 1]Islam also commands people to combine all aspects of goodness in dealing with people. Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَأَحْسِنُوا ۛ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴾ {And do good, for Allah loves those who do good.}[Surat al-Baqarah: 195]Moreover, Islam commands people to adhere to the Jama'ah (the Muslim community). Allah Almighty says: ﴿ وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ﴾ {And hold fast to the rope of Allah all together and do not be divided.}[Surat Āl 'Imrān: 103]

Islam is the religion of mercy, goodness, wisdom, reason, sound natural disposition, and uprightness. It calls to virtues and forbids vices. It calls for justice and forbids oppression. It calls to generosity and forbids stinginess. It calls for good morals and forbids bad morals.It calls to chastity and forbids obscenity. It calls to truthfulness and forbids lying. It calls for maintaining kinship ties and forbids severing them.It calls to righteousness and forbids wrongdoing. It calls for kindness and forbids aggression. It calls for protecting inviolable souls and forbids destroying them.It also forbids consuming people's properties unjustly, consuming usury, and theft. It advocates selling, giving charity, and all types of benevolence.There is no single religious or worldly benefit that Islam has not guided people to, and there is no source of harm that Islam has not forbidden people from. Islam calls to populate the earth and forbids spreading corruption therein. In short, Islam is the religion of all virtues.

Ahmad and others narrated the statement of Ja‘far ibn Abi Tālib (may Allah be pleased with him) that reads:"We were a people steeped in ignorance, worshipping idols, eating the flesh of dead animals, committing shameful acts, severing kinship ties, and ill-treating our neighbors, and the strong among us would oppress the weak. We remained in this state until Allah sent us a messenger from among us, whose lineage, truthfulness, honesty, and chastity were known to us. He invited us to worship Allah alone and to renounce the stones and idols we and our fathers used to worship beside God. He ordered us to speak the truth, to fulfill the trust, to maintain kinship ties, to be kind to our neighbors, to refrain from what is forbidden and from bloodshed. He forbade us from engaging in obscene and shameful acts, from speaking falsehoods, from devouring the property of orphans, and from accusing chaste women of immorality. He commanded us to worship Allah alone without associating partners with Him, to pray, to give Zakah, and to fast."

Among the excellent features of Islam is that it calls to the Hereafter, which is far more worthy than this worldly life, as the greatest kind of safety is the everlasting and permanent security and safety that lie in entering Paradise and being safe from Hellfire. Allah Almighty says: وَأُدْخِلَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ تَحِيَّتُهُمْ فِيهَا سَلَامٌ {Those who believe and do righteous deeds will be admitted to gardens under which rivers flow, abiding therein forever, by the permission of their Lord. Their greeting therein will be, “Peace!”}[Surat Ibrāhīm: 23]This is why Islam represents the greatest proof and evidence that Allah alone possesses absolute perfection. In addition, His Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) is His truthful Messenger because of what Islam comprises of excellent features, perfection, uprightness, mercy, justice, and wisdom in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah is the One Who grants success, and may His peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.

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